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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/812,825	03/30/2004	Hiroshi Kurumatani	YAMAP0923US	5087

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EXAMINER

MAGEE, CHRISTOPHER R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2627

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/812,825

Applicant(s)

KURUMATANI ET AL.

Examiner

Christopher R. Magee

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 and 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 March 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

2. Figures 10-13 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the examiner does not accept the changes, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

- Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) [Description of Related Art, pages 1-7, Figures 10-13].

Regarding claim 1, the AAPA teaches a magnetic recording and reproduction apparatus for recording information to, and/or reproducing information from a magnetic tape accommodated in a cassette, the magnetic recording and reproduction apparatus comprising:

a main chassis 400 on which a rotatable head cylinder for recording information to and/or reproducing information from the magnetic tape is mounted;

a sub chassis 500 on which the cassette is mountable, the sub chassis being movable relative to the main chassis; and

a first guide section for guiding the sub chassis to move relative to the main chassis wherein:

the first guide section includes:

a first guide groove 509 provided in one of the main chassis and the sub chassis, the first guide groove extending in a direction in which the sub chassis is movable relative to the main chassis; and

a first projection 403 provided on the other of the main chassis and the sub chassis, the first projection being engageable with the first guide groove and movable along the first guide groove; and

the first guide groove 509 has two ends between which the first projection is movable, the first projection is contactable with at least one of the two ends at two points and the at least one end is formed such that the movement of the first projection toward the at least one end is stopped by the contact with the two points, and the two points have a distance therebetween which is shorter than a width of the first guide groove in a direction perpendicular to the direction in which the sub chassis is movable [see embedded figure; Figs. 12A-B].

Regarding claim 2, the AAPA teaches a second guide section for guiding the sub chassis to move relative to the main chassis;

a third guide section for guiding the sub chassis to move relative to the main chassis;

wherein:

the second guide section includes:

a second guide groove 510 provided in one of the main chassis and the sub chassis, the second guide groove extending in a direction in which the sub chassis is movable relative to the main chassis; and

a second projection 404 provided on the other of the main chassis and the sub chassis, the second protection being engageable with the second guide groove and movable along the second guide groove; and

the third guide section includes:

a third guide groove 511 provided in one of the main chassis and the sub chassis, the third guide groove extending in a direction in which the sub chassis is movable relative to the main chassis; and

a third projection 405 provided on the other of the main chassis and the sub chassis, the third protection being engageable with the third guide groove and movable along the third guide groove; and

the main chassis 400 includes a bottom section, a first side section vertical to the bottom section, and a second side section vertical to the bottom section and facing the first side section [Figure 10];

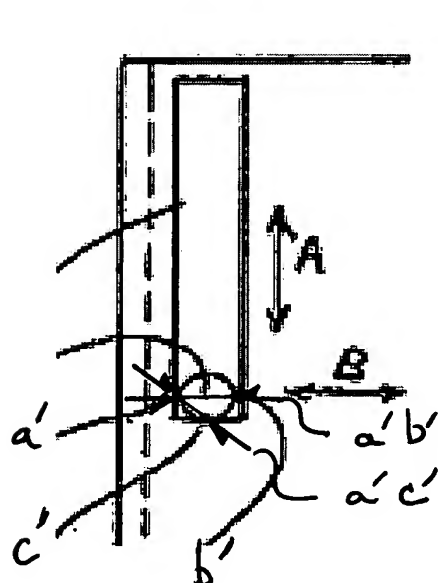
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the sub chassis 500 includes a bottom section, a first side section vertical to the bottom section, and a second section vertical to the bottom section and facing the first side section [Figure 11];

the first guide section is provided on the first side sections of the main chassis and the sub chassis;

the second guide section and the third guide section are each provided on the second side sections of the main chassis and the sub chassis; and

the second guide groove has two ends between which the second projection is movable, the second projection is contactable with at least one of the two ends at two points and the at least one end is formed such that the movement of the second protection toward the at least one end is stopped by the contact with the two points, and the two points have a distance therebetween which is shorter than a width of the second guide groove in a direction perpendicular to the direction in which the sub chassis is movable [see embedded figure; Figs. 13A-B].



• DISTANCE $a'c' < \text{DISTANCE } a'b'$.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3 and 4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion


5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon that is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure has been annotated on PTO-492.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher R. Magee whose telephone number is (571) 272-7592. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8: 00 am-4: 30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Korzuch can be reached on (571) 272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

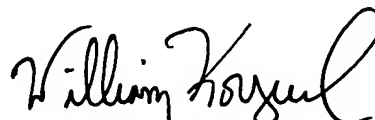
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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Christopher R. Magee
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2627

August 4, 2006
crm



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